

Plant Fact Sheet

WHITE TRIDENS

Tridens albescens (Vasey)
Woot. & Standl.
Plant Symbol = TRAL2

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



From Hitchcock (1950)
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Uses

Cattle and horses graze white tridens. Birds eat the large seed.

Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). White tridens is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 1 to 3 feet. The leaf blade is long, narrow, and rolls inward when drying. The leaf sheath is a rounded, open, and basal sheath shorter than the internodes. The ligule is a row of hairs. The stem is swollen at the base and white to purple. The

seedhead is a dense panicle that is distinctly green to purple before maturity.

Distribution: For current distribution, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

Management

Because this grass never makes up a large percentage of the plant composition, it is seldom a key management species. It is generally less palatable than associated grasses; therefore, requires no special management. White tridens increases on most sites. Its abundance indicates fair range condition.

Establishment

Growth starts in late spring and the seedheads start to form about 5 to 6 weeks later. The seeds are fairly large and the plants often have a sour odor. It grows best along drainageways and sites that overflow occasionally. It is best adapted to sandy to sandy loam soils, but grows on clay soils if moisture is adequate.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS Agriculture Handbook No. 389, Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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